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Manchin's Opposition May Doom Clean-Power Plan in Spending Bill

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Body

(Bloomberg) - Senator Joe Manchin has told the White House and congressional leaders that he will not support including a key clean-power provision in the Democrats' spending package, putting at risk a central element of the legislation designed to fight **climate** change, according to a person familiar with the matter.

A final decision about the fate of the program, which would pay utilities for using clean energy and penalize those that don't, hasn't been made, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing non-public deliberations. But without the support of Manchin, who holds a swing vote on the package, it's not likely to survive, the person said.

"Senator Manchin has clearly expressed his concerns about using taxpayer dollars to pay private companies to do things they're already doing," Sam Runyon, a spokesman for Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, said. "He continues to support efforts to combat **climate** change while protecting American energy independence and ensuring our energy reliability."

The program, known as the Clean Electricity Performance Program, has been a major priority for the White House and President Joe Biden's goal of de-carbonizing the nation's electric grid by 2035.

"We don't comment on the state of our negotiations with the wide array of Senators offering views about the Build Back Better agenda," said Vedant Patel, a White House spokesman. "The White House is laser focused on advancing the President's **climate** goals and positioning the United States to meet its emission targets in a way that grows domestic industries and good jobs."

The senator's opposition was previously reported by the New York Times.

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